

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 6 are pending. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected. Claim 5 is herein amended. New claim 8 is herein added, and finds support in the specification. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added. A marked-up version showing the changes made by the present amendment is attached hereto as "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made".

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 5 depends from canceled claim (*i.e.*, claim 1), and is therefore indefinite. Claim 6 depends from claim 5 and is therefore indefinite.

Applicant herein incorporates the limitations from canceled claim 1 into claim 5. Applicants submit that the rejection is therefore obviated.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,640,909 to Ramsden et al. or U.S. Patent No. 5,137,626 to Parry et al. The Examiner notes that the reference materials are insoluble in water, and the Examiner asserts that they will therefore inherently have the recited solubility parameter.

Applicants have amended claim 5, and subsequently disagree with the rejection. Applicants note that the materials of the cited reference are inorganic substances such as silica and glass.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. 1.111
Fumiyasu HIRAI et al.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/961,265
Attorney Docket No. 011284

Applicants herein amend Claim 5 to more distinctly recite the materials having the recited solubility parameter. This limitation is supported in the present specification on page 5, lines 20-26.


For at least the above reasons, Applicants submit that the claimed invention, as herein amended, is patentably distinguishable over the cited references. Early and favorable action is earnestly requested.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP


Kenneth H. Salen
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 43,077

KHS/plb
Atty. Docket No. 011284
Suite 1000, 1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



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Enclosures: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

5. (Amended) A process for adsorbing and removing endogenous cannabinoid comprising a step for of contacting the adsorbent of Claim 1 an adsorbent for endogenous cannabinoid comprising a water-insoluble material containing a substance whose solubility parameter δ is at most 12 ((cal/cm³)^{1/2}) with fluid containing endogenous cannabinoid, wherein the substance whose solubility parameter δ is at most 12 ((cal/cm³)^{1/2}) is at least one substance selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, poly(methacrylate ester), poly(acrylate ester), poly(vinyl chloride) polystyrene, a styrene-divinyl benzene copolymer, nylon 6, nylon 66, polytetrafluoroethylene, polysulfone and polyurethane.